

Range Riders and Game Wardens: A Brief History of Fort Bragg's Forest Ranger Program



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14. ABSTRACT This report provides a brief history of the Forest Ranger program at Camp Bragg and Fort Bragg from the 1920s through the 1980s. The impetus for this research was the need to establish an interpretive context for the single remaining historic ranger station structure on Fort Bragg. The report focuses on the period (1938-1982) in which the existing station was utilized for housing active duty military forest rangers. This study concludes with the transfer of ranger responsibilities to a civilian program and the subsequent abandonment of the various stations as ranger residences. Oral history interviews and documentary research focused on ranger activities at Fort Bragg as well as Camp Mackall, a modern sub-installation of Fort Bragg, which was established as a separate Army airborne training camp in World War II. Seven formal interviews were conducted with former rangers and their spouses, and informal interviews were conducted with family members of former rangers as well as the present (2006) chief of the Fort Bragg Wildlife Branch.							
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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

When Fort Bragg was established during World War I as Camp Bragg, a large field artillery training installation, most of the land consisted of a rural, forested landscape. Some 120,000 acres was acquired by the Army to provide much needed space for artillery training.¹ A small cantonment area, with headquarters, living quarters, hospitals and other support buildings, was built along the eastern edge of the reservation near the city of Fayetteville. The remaining land, a primarily forested landscape with abandoned elements of the rural homes and communities of the 18th and 19th centuries, e.g., roads, houses, barns, churches, cemeteries, etc. was set aside as a “target range”. This spatial relationship of the main cantonment and the training land remains today.

Early on the Army saw a need for a regular security presence in the unoccupied and seldom visited training lands. To meet this need the Army developed a forest ranger program within a few years of the fort's formation. The ranger program endures to this day, though ranger responsibilities, the program's organization and the stations have all changed over the course of the 20th century.

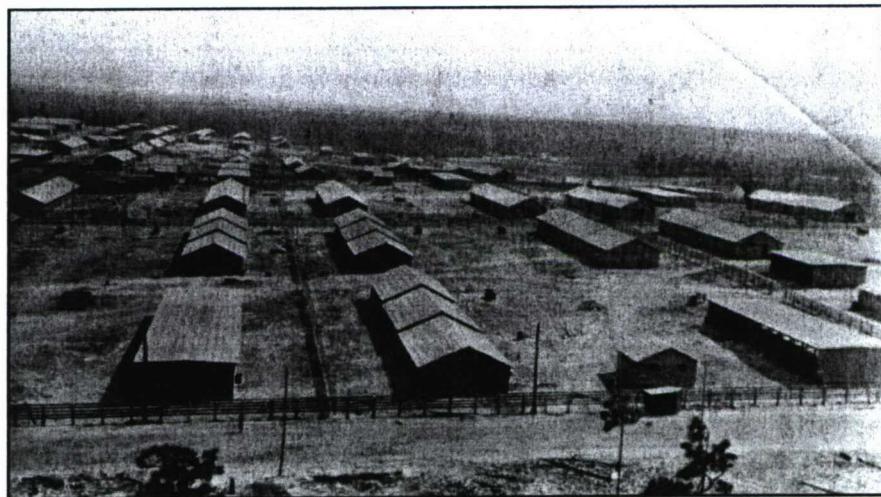


Figure 1. Camp Bragg, Main Cantonment, 1918, FBCRMP Archives

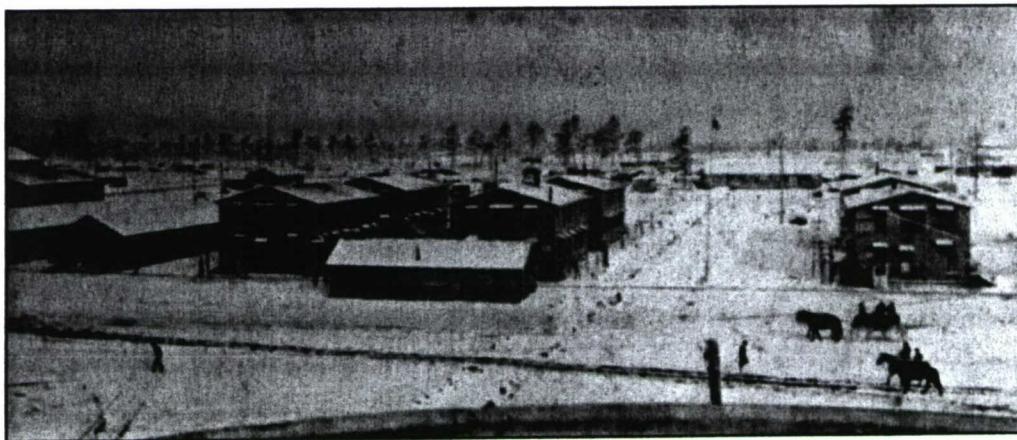


Figure 2. Camp Bragg Barracks, 1918, Fayetteville Observer Archives

This report provides a brief history of the Forest Ranger program at Fort Bragg ranging from the 1920s to the 1980s. The impetus for this research was the need to establish an interpretive context for the single remaining ranger station on Fort Bragg. In so doing, this report focuses on the period in which that station and others were utilized for housing active duty military forest rangers. This report concludes with the transfer of ranger responsibilities to a civilian program and the abandonment of stations as ranger residences. Interviews and research focused on ranger activities at Fort Bragg as well as Camp Mackall, a modern sub-installation of Fort Bragg that was established as a separate Army airborne training camp during World War II.

The report is based on several oral history interviews as well as documentary research. Seven formal interviews were conducted with former rangers and their spouses, Roger and Inez Fish, Garland and Billie Evans, Bill and Orene Paulus, Dennis and Dorothy Wilson, and rangers' spouses Mary Winchester, Estelle Rowland and Evelyn Ellington. Informal interviews were conducted with family members of former rangers, Myra Mott Hanni, Elizabeth McPherson, Duncan Parker, Sid Lovette, Betty Bombatete, and Creston Rowland, Jr. In addition to the family members, present chief of the Wildlife Branch, D. Alan Schultz and former ranger Ben Clifton were informally interviewed.



Figure 3. Camp Bragg, Training Lands, 1918, FBCRMP Archives

EARLY RANGERS AND RANGER STATIONS, 1922-1940

While evidence of a Forest Ranger program is limited, it is clear that a program was started early in the installation's history. About the time the land acquisition was completed, rangers were living in and patrolling the training lands. The first mention of a ranger is in a 1922 memo summarizing the results of a survey of old farm buildings on the reservation. The memo states, "All range stations are continuously occupied by range riders who guard Government property, detect illicit stills, etc."¹ These early "range riders" patrolled the training lands at a time when the active duty military personnel on Fort Bragg were limited to a few thousand troops, and when most of the training and almost all daily operations were concentrated in or around the main cantonment.²

During the 1920s and early 1930s, the ranger stations were adapted nineteenth century farmhouses selected from the rural landscape. While the Army demolished some of the nineteenth century domestic, agricultural structures that it had acquired and sold others, it is clear that some of these structures were retained for use.³ The exact number and locations of all ranger stations that were used prior to 1937-1938 is unknown and none remain standing today. There are several pieces of evidence however that allow for an informed reconstruction of station locations in the 1920s and 1930s (Figures 7 and 8).



Figure 4. First Ranger Station 1, 1938, Quartermaster Records



Figure 5. Ranger Station 2, 1937, Courtesy of Myra Mott Hanni

In 1930, Ranger Station 1 was located in McLaughlin Township on the southern boundary of Fort Bragg near the city of Raeford.⁴ Sergeant Joseph Reardon and his family occupied that station in the 1930s.⁵ A 1937 *Fayetteville Observer* reference to a ranger station at the former home of a Samuel J. Cameron suggests that this house may be Ranger Station 1.⁶ Ranger Station 2 was a two-story farmhouse located in Quewhiffle Township in the center of the reservation near Green Springs pond and the Monroe's Crossroads Civil War Battlefield.⁷ In the late 19th and early 20th centuries this house was the home of Neil Blue, a locally prominent landowner. Sergeant John Sidney Mott and his family lived there in the 1920s and 1930s.⁸ The existence of a third station is inferred from the recordation of a Ranger Station 4 on the 1930 census. The exact location of Ranger Station 3 is unknown as it does not appear in the 1930 census, but there is mention of a ranger station located near Long Street Church in a 1936 *Fayetteville Observer* newspaper article.⁹ The final known ranger station, Ranger Station 4, was also located in Quewhiffle Township and Sergeant Walter McMinn and his family lived there in the 1930s.¹⁰ The exact location of Ranger Station 4 is unknown.

These early ranger stations depicted the vernacular architecture of the nineteenth century and likely varied in size and style. In at least two cases, Ranger Station 1 and 2, the houses selected were two-story wood-frame I-houses with rear ell additions. These were typical of the more substantial homes in the Sandhills at the time of Camp Bragg's formation.¹¹ These stations were inhabited until the late 1930s.

These houses had additions or outbuildings to house enlisted men who worked under the command of the sergeant whose family resided in the main house. As Myra Mott Hanni, daughter of 1920s ranger Sergeant John Sidney Mott, recalls Ranger Station 2, the nineteenth century farmhouse of Neil Blue, had a "bunk house" for the subordinate soldiers. The "bunk house" was attached to the porch of the farmhouse which kept the sleeping quarters of the soldiers separate from that of the sergeant's family's; however the soldier had to walk outside to enter the living room and kitchen.

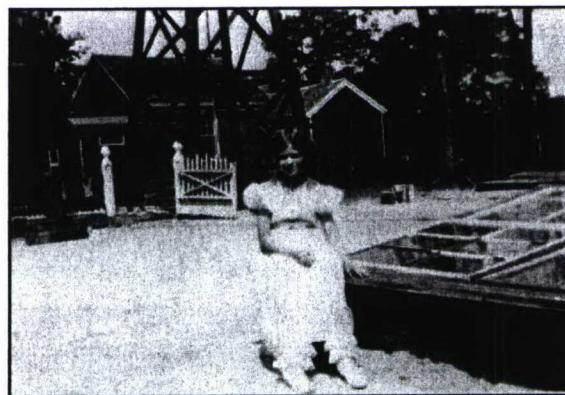


Figure 6. Myra Mott sitting next to cold frame in the rear of Ranger Station 2. The bunk house and summer kitchen are in the background, ca. 1937

During the late 1930s, the Army replaced the early ranger stations with three new stations specially designed to accommodate the typical ranger staffing order in the early decades of the ranger program. This order combined a noncommissioned officer (NCO) ranger, usually the rank of sergeant, his family and one or more subordinate soldiers who lived with the family and worked for the NCO ranger.¹² The new stations were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) using standardized post engineer plans.¹³

Fort Bragg had at least three CCC camps on the reservation that assisted the Army and the surrounding areas on such projects.¹⁴ The Civilian Conservation Corps was established under the presidency of Franklin Roosevelt as a way to assist young men and conserve the land during the Great Depression in the 1930s.¹⁵ The CCC recruited men 18 to 25 years old to work on various conservation and public work projects such as soil erosion projects, construction of public buildings, improvements of roads, etc.¹⁶ With the CCC's assistance the new ranger stations were ready to be inhabited by October 1938.

The new 1937 stations were strategically situated in the training lands along the boundaries of the reservation. Ranger Station 1, (originally #6 when these buildings overlapped with the earlier 19th century houses), was located on the corner of Raeford Vass Road and Plank Road on the southern edge of the reservation near the city of Raeford.

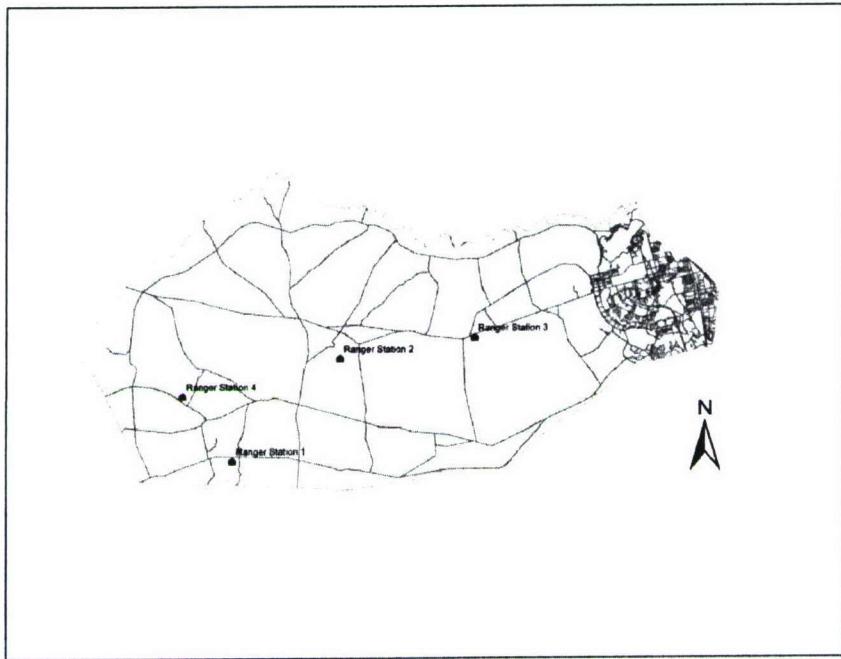


Figure 7. Fort Bragg. Approximate location of first Ranger Stations, 1920s.

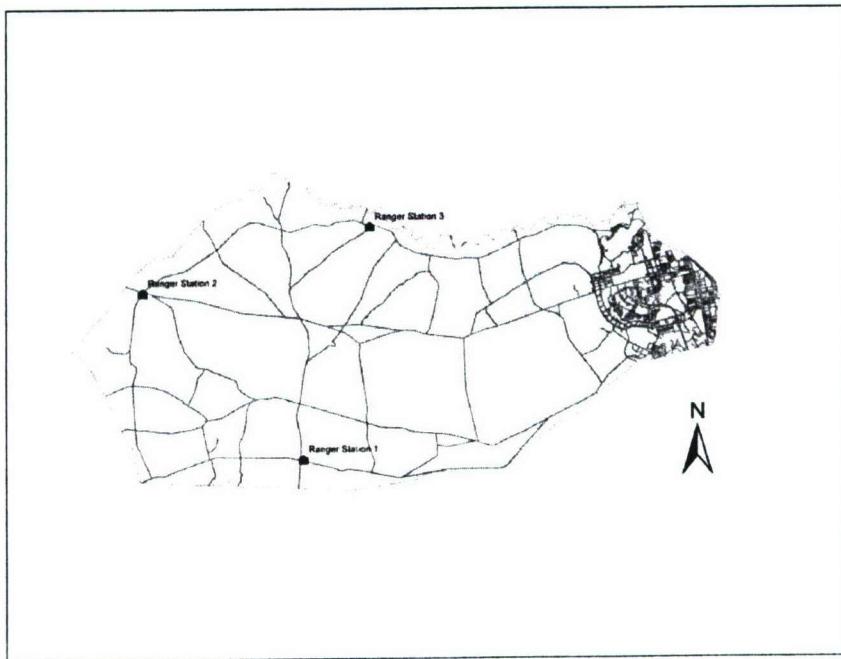


Figure 8. Fort Bragg. Location of the CCC-built Ranger Stations, 1938

Ranger Station 2 (originally #5 when these buildings overlapped with the earlier 19th century houses) was constructed at the corner of Morganton Road, Manchester Road and King Road near the western edge of the reservation close to the town of Southern Pines. Ranger Station 3, not to be confused with the early farmhouse by Long Street Church, was constructed at the corner of Raeford Vass Road and Manchester Road on the northern edge of the reservation near the town of Vass.¹⁷ The only remaining ranger station from this time period is Ranger Station 2. The other two stations were demolished in the 1990s.

The ranger stations of 1938 were one-story, wood frame buildings with screened-in front and back porches, four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, dining room, and kitchen. The stations were designed to accommodate the NCO ranger and his family along with subordinate soldiers all under one roof. The floor plans of the new stations maintained the notion of separate sleeping quarters for the NCO's family and the subordinate soldiers, but everyone was contained under one roof allowing the enlisted men easier access into the common areas of the house.

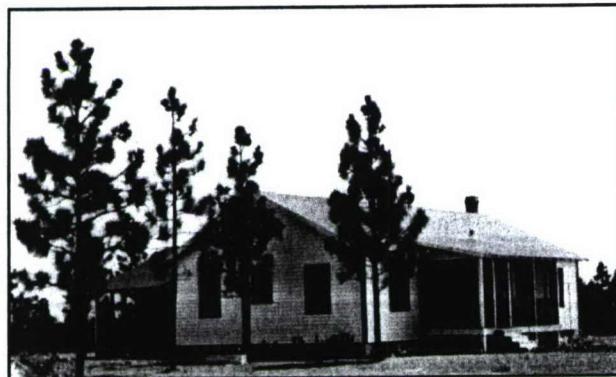


Figure 9. Ranger Station 1, 1938, Quartermaster Records



Figure 10. Ranger Station 2, 1938, Quartermaster Records



Figure 11. Ranger Station 3, 1938, Quartermaster Records

Ranger Station 1 and 2 had identical floor plans with the three family bedrooms and a full bath located on one side of the building while the soldiers' quarters, with full bath were located on the other side (See Figure 13). The living room divided the sleeping areas with the remaining common areas (dining room and kitchen) located on the same side as the soldiers' quarters with the kitchen in the rear ell. With access from the rear porch and a wall separating the living room, the floor plan effectively sectioned off a portion of the house where the soldiers could access their room and the kitchen and dining rooms without entering the family living room or bedroom area. Ranger Station 3 had a similar floor plan to the other ranger stations except for slight modifications in which the enlisted men had their own exterior access into their quarters via a door located on the front porch, and the station had a small basement accessed from stairs located in the kitchen (See Figure 14). In addition to the stations, garages and barns were also constructed and each station had an elevated water tank.¹⁸

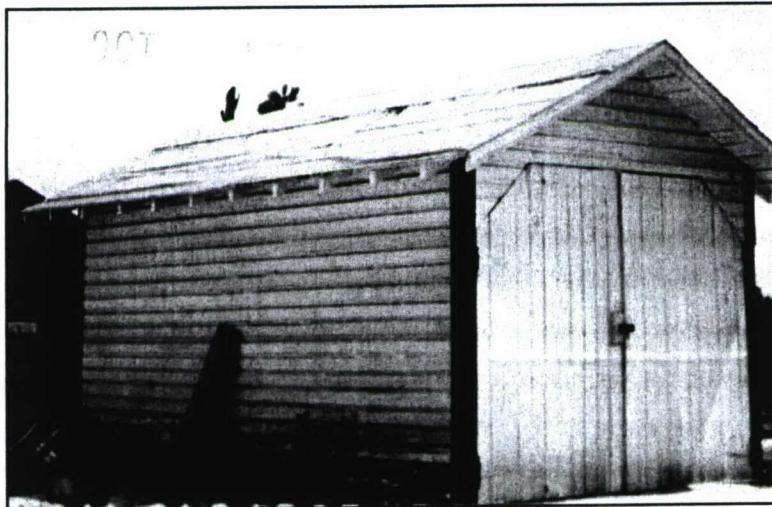


Figure 12. Ranger Station 3 Garage, 1938, Quartermaster Records

The NCO rangers who occupied the ranger stations served as rangers for several years, whereas the subordinate soldiers served as rangers for a six-month period.¹⁹ Two enlisted men were assigned to a ranger station. Sergeant John Sidney Mott is the best known example of an early ranger with a lengthy tenure. He served as a ranger for fourteen years before his death. Dennis Wilson, a young private in 1938 who served a six-month assignment detached from his artillery unit, notes that other sergeants served as rangers for years and that they would sometime return to ranger duty after leaving Fort Bragg on another assignment.

It is unknown exactly how rangers were selected for duty, though it seems likely that recruitment and training for ranger duty were informal. For at least the first two decades of Fort Bragg's ranger program, rangers were selected from the field artillery units on Fort Bragg.²⁰ The rangers may have been selected based on their willingness and interest as well as their experience as hunters or outdoorsmen, as in later years. Dennis Wilson recalls his selection process: "the guy that was there the unit I was in I talked to him – he talked to me really about how much he enjoyed it and I knew that his time would be up you know next month so I talked to my first sergeant and he said if you want to go we can select you to go so I didn't have no interview or nothing I just went." According to Wilson, there was no formal training, rather a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was issued and the NCO ranger would provide guidance. Rangers came to this duty from different backgrounds. Wilson was in a horse-drawn field artillery unit, while Sergeant Mott, who became a ranger in the 1920s, had served in World War I as an ambulance driver in France.²¹ In the 1920s and 1930s, the head rangers were under the command of the Provost Marshall.²²

Rangers were assigned specific areas to patrol on horseback based on their locations of residence. For instance, in 1938 with the construction of the new ranger stations, Wilson recalled that the reservation was divided into thirds where rangers at Ranger Station 1 patrolled the southern edge of Fort Bragg east to west; Ranger Station 2 patrolled the central portion and Ranger Station 3 patrolled the northern area.²³ The exact boundaries of the designated areas are unknown.

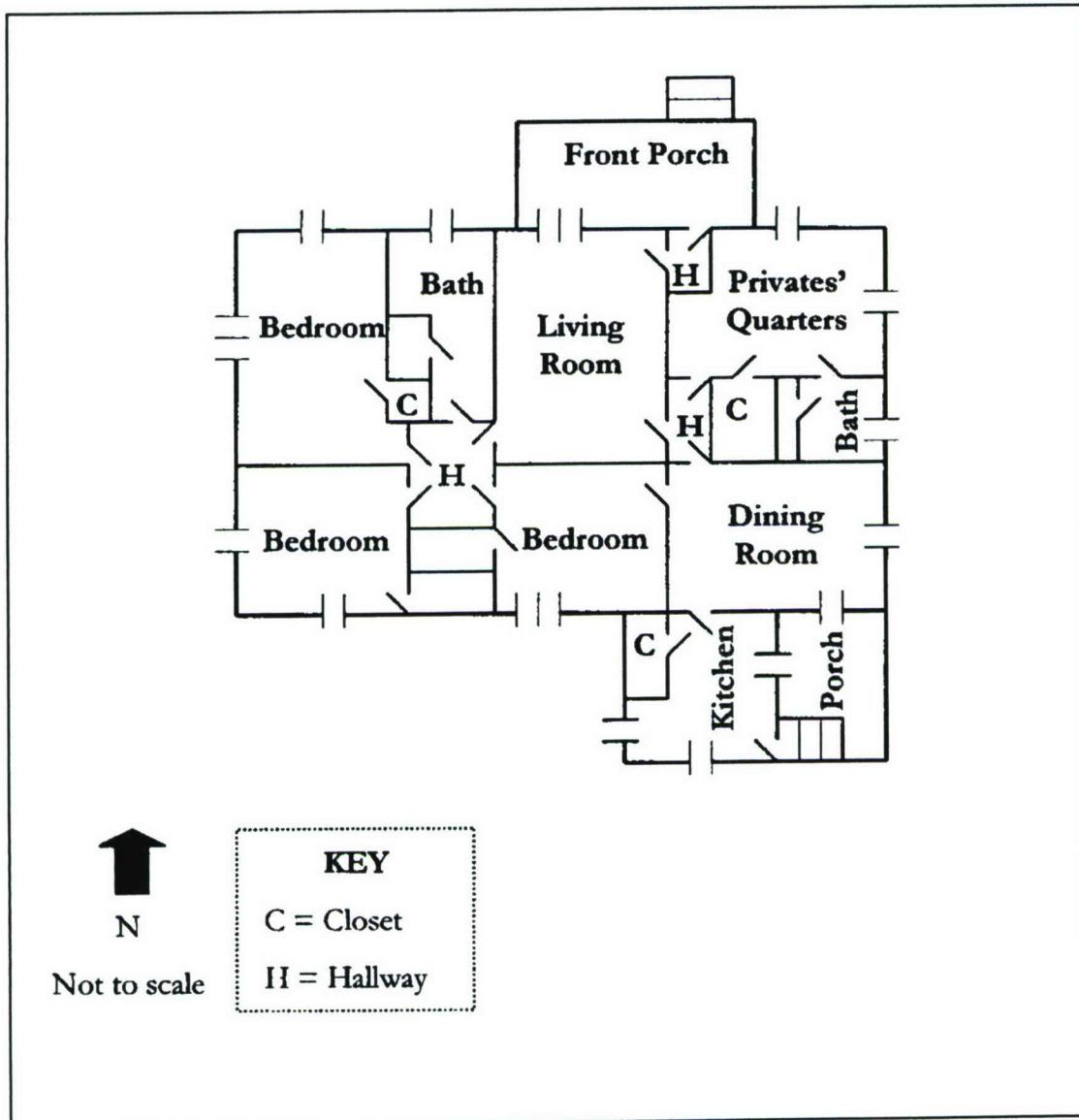


Figure 13. Original floor plan for Ranger Station 1 and Ranger Station 2, 1938, Quartermaster Records

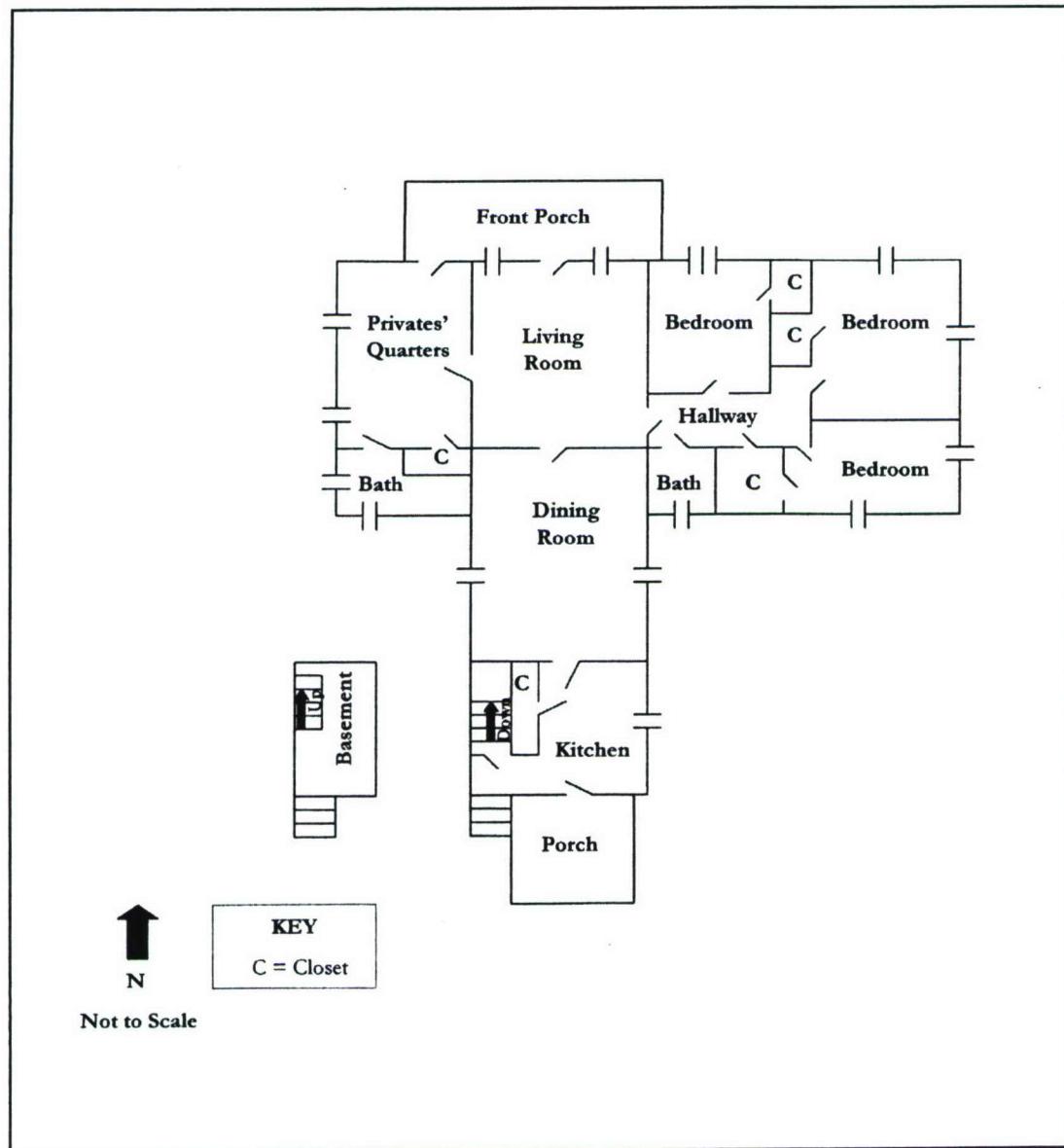


Figure 14. Original floor plan for Ranger Station 3, 1938, *Quartermaster Records*

Early forest ranger responsibilities included general law enforcement as well as monitoring forest fires. The former was focused on keeping civilians off the reservation, out of harm's way, and patrolling for illegal activity. Wilson noted that a primary objective of the rangers in 1938 was "keeping civilians off the reservation", apparently to ensure that civilians were not harmed as a result of military training. An extraordinary case of keeping the artillery training lands free of civilians soon after the installation was founded was reported by a local newspaper. A former slave named John Nichols was determined to reside on and maintain an old farm of a Mrs. Ray near Long Street Church. After unsuccessful attempts to keep Mr. Nichols off the reservation, he was allowed to stay, being regularly cared for by the forest rangers of the time.²⁴

Beyond trespassing, illegal activities that were somewhat frequent in the early years included illicit liquor production and poaching. The former was mentioned in the 1922 memo cited above as well as by Myra Mott Hanni who retains a photograph of her father standing next to a confiscated still. Wilson recalls finding stills on the reservation only to have the stills quickly vanish: "I don't know how they knew...", Wilson recalled, but after he reported a still to his sergeant they would find it "long gone" upon returning to the site where fresh ground disturbance indicated the still was removed.

Illegal hunting during the 1920s through the 1930s likely involved civilians coming onto the reservation. Wilson recalls that hunting in 1938 was limited to military personnel who received permits from the Provost Marshall in the cantonment area. Deer hunting was first allowed on Fort Bragg in 1930, after the herd was given time to become healthy.²⁵ During his brief tenure as a ranger, Wilson encountered poachers but notes that "by the time you got off your horse they were gone". As for apprehending a poacher, Wilson did not and furthermore, he "never knew anyone to be that lucky or unlucky." More experienced rangers, such as Mott, may have even served as hunt guides for special guests, e.g., general officers.²⁶

One well-known instance of an attempt to apprehend poachers occurred in 1937 and resulted in the only known casualty in the line of duty suffered in the ranger program. On October 16, 1937 veteran forest ranger Sergeant Mott was patrolling his area and came across four poachers.²⁷ Sergeant Mott stopped the men when he saw them carrying a dead deer toward their car parked on the reservation near the town of Raeford.²⁸ While Mott was investigating the situation, one man supposedly shot him in the face with a shotgun. The men fled the scene, but were later arrested.²⁹ The men were acquitted as the jury could not determine who actually fired the shot.³⁰ Mott was eulogized by Major Harwood Bowman Mott as a soldier who exercised his duties with "firmness, and a strong sense of justice tempered with kindness".³¹ Mott Lake was named in honor of Sergeant Mott in 1938 and the memory of Mott's death still survives today amongst the present day rangers.³²

Another part of the early ranger's duties was to watch for forest fires. In the 1920s, forest fire was a concern for North Carolina farmers and owners of woodland property. In a 1925 *Hoke County Journal* newspaper article, the Governor of North Carolina, Angus Wilton McLean, urged North Carolina "counties to cooperate in forst [sic]



Figure 15. Sergeant John Sidney Mott with two other rangers standing behind a moonshine still they found on Fort Bragg, ca. 1930s, Courtesy of Myra Mott Hanni



Figure 16. Sergeant Mott with children, Robert and Myra, ca. 1928, Courtesy of Myra Mott Hanni

fire problem" by taking advantage of the financial assistance and expert help provided by the Department of Conservation and Development.³³ All regions of North Carolina experienced damage from devastating forest fires in 1925, Fort Bragg included. On March 11, 1925 fire tore through the pine forest destroying the natural vegetation of three quarters of the reservation, an estimated 90,000 acres.³⁴ The main cantonment area was saved but the training lands were left a mangled mess of black tree trunks. Fire towers were constructed to aid the rangers.³⁵ One fire tower was located near Blues Mountain in the center of the reservation near Ranger Station 2, the former Blue farmhouse, as Myra Mott Hanni recalls visiting a tower with her father. It is believed there was another fire tower but the exact location is unknown.³⁶ Wilson recalls a fire tower at Blues Mountain and when a fire was seen having to quickly return to the station to phone for help. Wilson also recalls assisting with fire fighting, particularly after the CCC left the installation.

The rangers departed stations daily, typically leaving behind the NCO's wife and children. The rangers spent the greater part of their time patrolling designated areas near their stations. They patrolled on horseback and usually worked alone, sometimes camping out over night.³⁷ The rangers' interaction with the Provost Marshall was limited, and they rarely went into post except for occasional meetings and other business matters.³⁸ Wilson recalled an officer with the Provost Marshall driving out Plank Road monthly to deliver his paycheck. Myra Mott Hanni remembered that her father would go into post occasionally to report in to his commanding officer, and she said her family went into post for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners at her father's battery.

Wilson, who lived with a family of five at Ranger Station 1 on Plank Road, characterized life at the Ranger Stations as being centered on family and work. The subordinate rangers ate dinner with the family and assisted with the household chores such as washing dishes, cutting wood, and house repairs.³⁹ Wilson recalled the sergeant's wife would cook the meals, but the subordinate rangers would clean up the dishes and the kitchen as payment for the meals. Wilson also recalled cutting and "laying up" firewood for the winter. He noted that "you were just like a member of the family".

The remote nature of the stations led to close ties with nearby communities. At Ranger Station 1, Wilson recalls the NCO's children attending schools in the nearby town of Raeford. Wilson himself often walked to Raeford to see movies on the weekends. Wilson recalled that high school students from Raeford as well as local relatives of the NCO family visited the ranger station frequently. Wilson actually married the cousin of the head ranger whom he had met when she came to visit her cousin at the ranger station.



Figure 17. Dennis Wilson (right) and ranger, ca. 1938, Courtesy of Dennis Wilson



Figure 18. Dennis Wilson at Ranger Station 1, ca. 1938, Courtesy of Dennis Wilson

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MILITARY POLICE RANGERS, 1941 – 1982

With a foundation established in the first two decades, the forest ranger program would continue throughout the mid to late 20th century though it would change in numerous ways. The program would expand in scope and later retract. The most dramatic changes would involve an expansion of responsibilities to include a farming program for wildlife habitat management and a wildlife trapping program. Later these responsibilities would be removed from the rangers whose primary focus would become law enforcement. Other changes included an organizational shift from Field Artillery to Military Police, the removal of enlisted men from the NCO family headquarters, and the development of an operational center near Main Post. The hunting and fishing program on Fort Bragg would expand during these years as well. Life at the ranger stations would modernize though the rural character would persist.

At some point in or after the 1940s, rangers would no longer be pulled from Field Artillery units but would come from the Military Police (MP). The exact year of this change is not known, though the Military Police Corps was established permanently in 1941 by the Secretary of War.¹ Rangers in the 1950s through the 1980s were assigned to the 503rd Military Police Battalion which was activated at Fort Bragg in 1949.² By the 1960s the rangers were referred to as Game Wardens.



Figure 19. 1960s Ranger Badge, 2005, Courtesy of Roger Fish

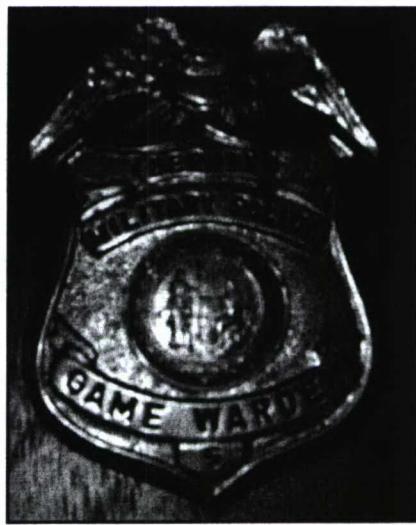


Figure 20. 1970s Ranger/Game Warden Badge, 2005, Courtesy of Roger Fish

While some rangers were MPs prior to forest ranger duty, some were not. Bill Paulus, who notes that being selected for ranger duty was “one of those last stop things in the military,” had been in the 82nd Airborne and Special Forces prior to being assigned to the Military Police as a ranger. Other rangers like Garland Evans came to the Military Police from a field artillery background, while Ben Ellington was an engineer, and Creston Rowland had been a recruiting sergeant after he was released from a World War II prisoner of war camp in Japan.³ Even though the rangers came from different military backgrounds, they all had similar experiences or interest in outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing – an important factor in the selection process.

The selection system and training for forest ranger duty continued to be largely informal. Selection seems to have been based on one’s level of interest and ability as well as experience. Evans gave the most detailed account of his selection process, indicating interviews where he was questioned about a background in hunting and farming. He described the interview, saying that “they wanted to know your training, your record, where you come from, what type of work you done, how you were raised and so far and so on and I think looking at it a whole lot they were looking for more of an outdoors man.” Occasionally the selection process was imperfect. Roger Fish recalled one ranger who preferred patrolling Hay Street in downtown Fayetteville over patrolling in the woods. In addition to one’s experience personal connections may have played a role as well. Like earlier years, once assigned to ranger duty, training was largely “on the job”.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the forest ranger program continued to be staffed by NCOs with approximately ten rangers on duty at any given point.⁴ Similar to the earlier rangers, the NCOs served as rangers for several years and some would return to ranger duty after leaving Fort Bragg for another assignment. For instance, Estelle Rowland recalled that her husband, Creston Rowland, served as a forest ranger at Camp Mackall for two years, he was then transferred to Alaska for ranger duty and finally returned to Fort Bragg where he served as a ranger for another nine years until he retired. Some of the rangers lived in the houses built in 1937, Stations 1, 2, and 3, while others lived off post. By this time, the ranger station households would no longer include enlisted men on temporary duty, only the NCO and his family. However, some of the rangers that lived off post would be assigned to one of the ranger stations where they would convene in the morning prior to venturing into Main Post to the ranger headquarters for their assignments.⁵

In addition to the 1937 stations, two other stations would eventually be established by the 1960s, including one on Main Post (Station 4) and one at Camp Mackall (Station 5)

(See Figure 22). The former was created by adaptive reuse of a World War II-era day room. Garland Evans and his family lived in this station, the location of which facilitated patrolling the eastern and northeastern portions of Fort Bragg.⁶ Ranger Station 5 was created as another adaptive reuse of an existing building. A log cabin built in 1924 by the Barber Steamship Company and used for hunting parties by Barber as well as the DuPont Corporation and the Army, was converted into a family residence and ranger station.⁷ A trailer located next to Ranger Station 5 was also utilized as a ranger station in the latter half of the 20th century.⁸



Figure 21. Ranger Garland Evans with daughter standing outside Ranger Station 4, ca. 1958, Courtesy of Garland Evans



Figure 22. Ranger Station 5 at Camp Mackall, Photo by Lowell Stevens

In addition to the ranger stations, a ranger headquarters was established in conjunction with the Fort Bragg Fish and Wildlife Association and Rod and Gun Club. The earliest date for the headquarters is unclear though a building is clearly in place by 1960 and the Fish and Wildlife Association dates to as far back as 1929.⁹ Several rangers interviewed, including Evans, Fish and Paulus, recalled the headquarters, which by the early to mid 1960s, became the organizational hub for planning activities. Rangers would report at least occasionally if not regularly to the headquarters for daily assignments issued by a Chief Ranger and someone would always be at headquarters to answer the phone and assist the rangers when needed.¹⁰ The headquarters building was located on the western outskirts of the main cantonment on McKellars Road across the street from McKellar's Lodge, near McKellar's Pond.¹¹

As the ranger program grew to assume greater involvement in hunting and wildlife management activities, the Fort Bragg Rod and Gun Club would become integrally involved with the ranger program. According to Roger Fish, tractors and farm equipment were assigned to the club and the equipment, feed and fertilizer were purchased with club

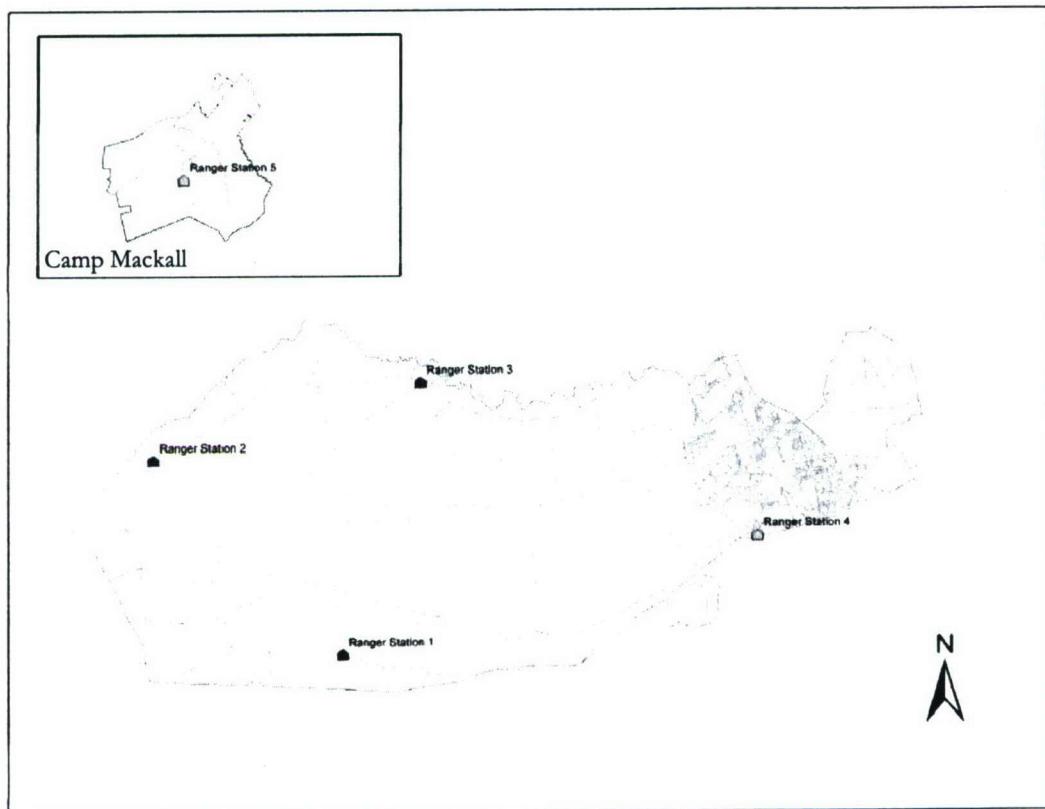


Figure 23. Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall, Location of Ranger Stations, 1950s & 1960s

membership. The members of the club's Board of Governors were appointed as deputy game wardens, carrying badges but not guns. This relationship would evolve into the modern program where civilian rangers are part of a civilian wildlife management program.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the ranger program enjoyed a culmination period in terms of the diversity of ranger responsibilities and in terms of a unique presence in the training lands. Bill Paulus, Garland Evans, Roger Fish, as well as Mrs. Ellington, Mrs. Rowland and Mrs. Winchester consistently characterized forest ranger responsibilities during these decades in terms of four major categories: general law enforcement, activities associated with hunting season, trapping of small predators, and farming for wildlife habitat. In addition, during this period and perhaps earlier, the stations and the rangers and their families became informal institutions in the training areas, constituting a unique domestic presence, outposts for civilians or soldiers in need of help, important facilities for hunters.

With the exception of law enforcement, ranger duties varied seasonally. Hunting related activities dominated in the fall and winter as large and small game seasons ran from November through early January (See Table 1). Hunting throughout the 1940s and 1950s was generally restricted to military personnel, dependents or retirees.¹² Throughout hunting season and particularly deer season the rangers were especially busy. By the late 1950s, the hunting and fishing program had grown to include more than 3,500 hunters and fishermen, members of the Fish and Wildlife Association.¹³ Rangers were responsible for ensuring that all hunters were accounted for. The ranger stations had "sign out shacks" where daily postings listed areas open for hunting and where hunters would register or sign out.¹⁴ At the end of the day rangers had to "clear the post", making sure that hunters were not lost in the woods. During hunting season, the workdays were often extended well into or through the nights. While the rangers were active patrolling the woods, back at the headquarters, a ranger would check game and collect basic information on the age and health of the animals killed. A "skinning shed" was located at the headquarters as well.¹⁵

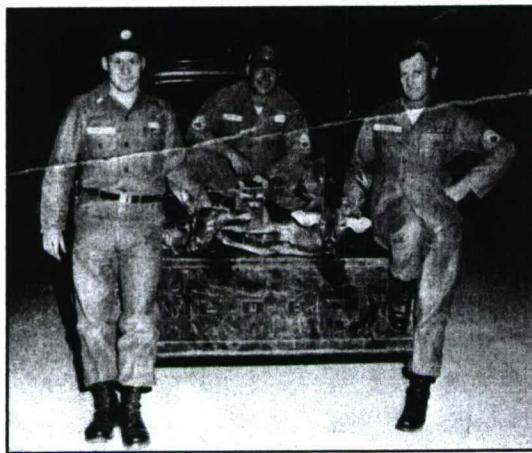


Figure 24. Ranger Bill Paulus (center) with two soldiers posing with deer they killed, ca. 1960s, Courtesy of Bill Paulus



Figure 25. Hunter with deer in garage at Ranger Station 1, 1958, Courtesy of Estelle Rowland

In addition to keeping track of hunters and facilitating hunt season activities, rangers were always responsible for enforcing Fort Bragg's hunting regulations. The rangers made sure hunters and fishermen had the proper licenses and followed safety regulations. They ensured hunters were operating in open areas and were using the proper techniques and weapons. Rangers patrolled their respective areas for illegal hunting or poaching. In 1968 rangers checked 6452 hunters and fishermen in the field, resulting in 353 game regulation violations.¹⁶ Poachers would occasionally be apprehended and brought before a federal judge. When necessary, the rangers would coordinate with state officials regarding hunting violations.¹⁷ After the murder of Sergeant Mott, no known casualties from hunting occurred among the rangers, though a hunter was killed accidentally in 1969.¹⁸ Another aspect of ranger duties related to hunting that carried over from earlier years was to serve as skilled hunt guides for officers. During their years at Ranger Station 1 in the 1960s, Evelyn Ellington recalls her husband serving as a guide for officers.

The early spring season, just after the conclusion of bird and rabbit season, was dedicated to trapping wildlife. For thirty straight days each March, the rangers devoted their time to setting and baiting steel traps for small predators in the morning and then checking the traps in the evening.¹⁹ Animals trapped included fox, opossum, skunk, bobcat, raccoon, and wild dog. Once trapped, these were delivered to the post veterinarian who would check the animals for rabies and other diseases before they were killed in order to gain information on possible dangers that could affect soldiers in the field.²⁰ The trapping program allowed a means for controlling the number of small predators and a means for monitoring disease in wild animals. Beyond this systematic trapping program, rangers might get called upon to collect wild animals on occasion. Fish and Evans recalled two separate instances of capturing alligators on Fort Bragg and relocating them to ponds on the installation.

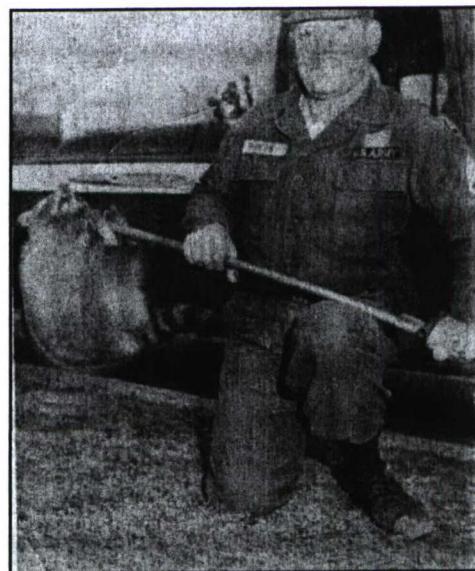


Figure 26. Ranger Bill Paulus with raccoon, ca. 1960s,
Courtesy of Bill Paulus

Game	Season	Bag Limit	
		Day	Season
Deer (male)	Nov 20 to Jan 3	1	1
Turkey	Nov 20 to Jan 3	1	1
Quail	Nov 20 to Jan 31	8	16 Poss.
Gray Squirrel	Nov 20 to Jan 3	6	No limit
Fox Squirrel	Nov 20 to Jan 3	6	No limit
Doves	Jan 1 to Jan 20	10	10 Poss.
Duck	Dec 10 to Jan 8	4	8 Poss.
Rabbit	Nov 20 to Jan 3	No limit	No limit

Table 1. Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits according to 1948-1949 Fort Bragg Hunting Regulations

Following the trapping season, rangers shifted their focus to farming throughout the spring and into the summer. By the 1950s this seems to have become a major component of the program as rangers were responsible for planting and maintaining a collection of wildlife food fields on Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall. Using tractors and other equipment supplied by the Rod and Gun Club and kept at least temporarily at the ranger stations, rangers disked or plowed, fertilized and planted food fields for deer, quail and dove. Paulus recalls as many as 700 active fields during the 1960s.²¹ Rye, corn, millet and other crops were planted. Evans recalls planting “everything from annual bird seed to sunflower to vetch for the turkey and the wildlife”. While patrolling duty usually involved individual rangers, farming duty may have involved a team of two or three rangers.

By the late 1960s, the responsibility of farming shifted from the active duty forest rangers to civilian post engineers. A Fish and Wildlife Program, Directorate of Facilities, was initiated in 1966 and within two years included a staff of ten.²² This program would assume the responsibility of managing wildlife habitat and lakes as well as the hunting and fishing programs. The active duty rangers would work with the Wildlife Program in several ways. In addition to being called upon to assist with planting when their help was required, the rangers enforced game and fish regulations, trapped feral dogs and cats, collected road kills for study, and continued to track hunting season results as well as maintain the sign-out sheets during hunting season.²³ This change would mark an important trend towards the eventual exclusive role of rangers as law enforcement officers and the establishment of a civilian workforce to manage hunting and fishing, wildlife habitat, lakes and ponds.

In addition to their major responsibilities with hunting season, farming, trapping and general law enforcement, rangers also played a role in managing and patrolling the lakes used for recreation on Fort Bragg. Roger Fish recalls stocking lakes with fish either picked up from local hatcheries or delivered from a federal hatchery in Richmond County. The rangers would also drain lakes when necessary. Mrs. Rowland recalls the rangers being involved with maintaining the boats issued by the Army for recreational use for military personnel and their families. The rangers would patrol the lakes to ensure fishing was compliant with installation regulations.



Figure 27. Ranger Robert Winchester farming a food field, ca. 1960s, Courtesy of Bill Paulus

Some rangers, particularly those of longer tenure, developed an interest in historic sites on Fort Bragg. Long before there was a formal program to manage historic properties, rangers filled that role, at least on occasion. According to Mrs. Ellington, her husband Ben, helped get a fence and a memorial installed at Sandy Grove Presbyterian Church, a ca. 1854 building that stands on Plank Road in the southwestern portion of Fort Bragg. Mr. Ellington also monitored Sandy Grove to guard against vandalism.

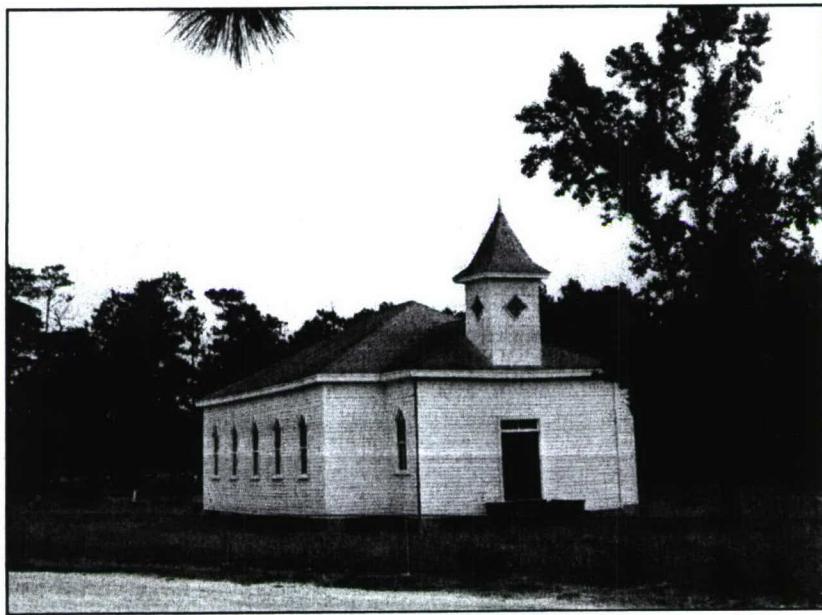


Figure 28. *Sandy Grove Church, constructed in 1854, 2002, FBCRMP*

In addition to their seasonal duties, the rangers continually maintained general law enforcement responsibilities to include regular patrols and calls for action. As Paulus relates, they were on duty “24/7” and did “Whatever needed doing.” While farming, rangers might actually abandon their tractors to respond to a call, returning to planting when they could.²⁴ Ranger James Humphries explained in a 1971 newspaper interview, “When the phone rings, sometimes you feel like telling the guy to go jump. Meanwhile you’re putting on your boots and clothes on to go help him. Why? Because it’s the law of the land to help your fellow man.”²⁵ Violations varied from illegal hunting and trespassing to littering. Garland Evans noted that when on patrol, one could “run into all kinds of things”, including people stuck in vehicles and people partying. Roger Fish recalled one trespasser who was a repeat offender, a local preacher whom the rangers would find “way out in the boonies and he would be out there wandering around like somebody dazed you know”. According to Fish, he told the rangers “I feel like I am a free man and I can go anywhere I want to you know.” Fish went on to say that “we had a lot of people like that on the reservation”. In 1967 the eight rangers covered 240,000 miles in their patrols.²⁶

While rangers were active throughout the year in various duties, life at most of the ranger stations (except Station 4 in the Main Cantonment) continued to be uniquely characterized by the rural or remote nature of living and working on the reservation. The rural nature of the stations and the unique working relationship of the rangers led to casual social networks and a kind of small dispersed community among ranger households. Bill Paulus explained that the rangers formed “just one big family”. Several of the interviewees recalled hosting or joining other ranger’s families for dinner at different stations. Mary Winchester remembers “that when they were farming the wives took different days we would fix their meals for them at lunch time”. Several of the interviewees recalled numerous names of other rangers who were their contemporaries and remarked on their families and their post-ranger lives.

The families occasionally ventured into the main cantonment of Fort Bragg, to shop at the commissary or to visit the doctor. But overall, ranger families were more connected with local civilian communities. The children attended

school in the towns nearest the ranger stations. For instance, children stationed at Ranger Station 1 attended Raeford schools while Ranger Station 2 children went to school in Southern Pines, Ranger Station 3 went to Vass, and Ranger Station 5 to Hoffman. School buses from these schools would pick up the children at their houses. On occasion the rangers would have to drive their children to the boundary line to the meet the school bus since at that time the major roads used to access the stations like Plank and Raeford Vass Roads were unpaved.²⁷ When not in school, the children enjoyed playing in the woods near the stations, catching tadpoles in rained-filled holes or taking care of their pet baby deer.



Figure 29. Ranger Roger Fish as pictured sitting a litterer in a 1971 Fort Bragg Paraglide article, photo by Cliff Rhodes

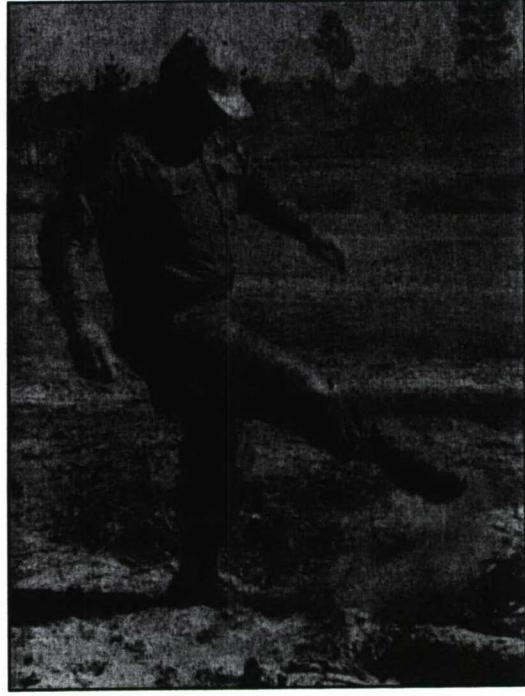


Figure 30. Ranger M.C. Windley as pictured putting out an abandoned fire in a 1971 Fort Bragg Paraglide article, photo by Cliff Rhodes

Perhaps one of the greatest indicators of the rural nature of life among the rangers' families was the common presence of wildlife in or around the household. Evelyn Ellington remembered that a nightly ritual with her family at Ranger Station 1 on Plank Road was taking a flashlight out and shining it around near the pump house and watching all the deer in a nearby field. Among those interviewed, several recalled stories about raising young deer. Inez Fish, wife of ranger Roger Fish, remembered her children taking care of a baby deer named Bambi and Mary Winchester recalled that she raised several baby deer along with horses. "We raised several when we lived at the Ranger Station. The troops would be out in the fields and once the humans would touch the deer then the momma wouldn't go back to it. So then they would bring them in and we ended up raising several deer." Mrs. Rowland, who raised deer and a fox, recalled a fawn regularly entering the house and joining the family in the living room.

Due to their remote location, the ranger stations became important outposts – "a place where a guy can find help if he needs it."²⁸ The ranger and his family provided a unique resource for Fort Bragg as they were the only people living in the western portion of the reservation. On many occasions during all hours of the day and night, the ranger and his family would help someone who had just accidentally hit a deer with their car, give directions to someone who was lost or help someone get their car out of a ditch. Mary Winchester noted that people were always stopping by their house (Station 3).

Women played an important role maintaining the household and in some cases assisting with ranger responsibilities around the station. Most of the families represented in the interviews had multiple children, some as many as seven or eight. In addition to caring for the children and managing a household, ranger wives were integral to a functioning ranger station. Ranger Humphries explained in 1971 that the wives too understood the importance of someone always being at the station in case of an emergency. If the rangers were not at home, Humphries explained, "...our wives know they have to be."²⁹ Wives would answer the telephone, prepare meals for rangers, and assist with the hunting sign out shack.

The stations would be modernized over the years. Interior renovations included new flooring, new kitchen cabinetry, new molding and in some cases additions of closet space or closing of original doorways. New heating systems were added as coal and/or wood burning fireplaces were removed or sealed off and radiators were installed. Ranger Stations 1, 2, and 3 continued to be used on Fort Bragg throughout this period as did Ranger Station 5 on Camp Mackall. Ranger Station 4 appears to have ceased being a ranger station after Garland Evans' term in the 1950s, and it was demolished by the 1970s.³⁰



Figure 31. Evelyn Ellington, as pictured in a 1971 Fort Bragg Paraglide article, answers the phone at Ranger Station 1, photo by Cliff Rhodes



Figure 32. Ranger's wife feeding a young fox, 1968, Conservation and Beautification

In 1982, the forest ranger program would experience another significant change in organizational structure and responsibilities. The Provost Marshall Office transferred the functions of the rangers to the Department of Engineering and Housing, which later became known as the Directorate of Public Works.³¹ With this transfer, the active duty military component of the ranger program ended and law enforcement and wildlife-related management activities were completely civilianized.

Roger Fish, the only ranger interviewed who served as a Military Police ranger in the 1960s and later returned to Fort Bragg as a civilian Federal Wildlife Officer in the early 1980s, offered some perspective on the differences in the program as an active duty military function and as a civilian operation. In general, the civilian rangers received more formal training. While previously rangers were trained on-the-job, civilian rangers received official training through programs such as the North Carolina State Game Warden School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina or from the Federal Law

Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Georgia.

The civilian rangers received United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) commissions as "Wildlife Officers" allowing the rangers exclusive regulatory authority over several environmental laws.³² As for differences in the nature of daily work, Fish recalled spending more time in the field as a civilian ranger. In terms of law enforcement, Fish recalled differences between the 1960s and the 1980s in the amount and type of law enforcement cases. In the 1980s, the rangers experienced more law enforcement cases writing in some years 350 cases. Few of these resulted in court cases, though Fish noted more court cases in later years than earlier. Fish recalled an increase in pine straw larceny and trespassing in the 1980s.

Soon after the civilianization of the ranger program, the ranger stations stopped being utilized as houses for the rangers and their families. Instead, the stations were briefly used as noncommissioned officers' housing and then used for administrative purposes. Ranger Stations 1 and 3 were demolished in the 1990s, and Stations 2 and 5 still exist today. Only Ranger Station 2 continues to be used by rangers, serving as a satellite field office and storage facility.

Today, the ranger program and the responsibilities of the rangers are part of a larger operation, the Wildlife Branch, Natural Resources Division, Directorate of Public Works, which encompasses law enforcement, wildlife management and hunting operations. The rangers or today Wildlife Officers continue to patrol the training lands of Fort Bragg to protect federal property and to ensure the safety of soldiers and civilians.



Figure 33. Military Police Rangers, 1968, Conservation and Beautification

SUMMARY

The Forest Ranger program at Fort Bragg was initiated early in the installation's history. Soon after Camp Bragg was established as a large field artillery training center, rangers or "range riders" were assigned to patrol the uninhabited, forested training lands. Stations that served as family houses for NCO rangers and bunk houses for enlisted men who worked for the NCO were created from extant farmhouses. These old farm houses would later be replaced on Fort Bragg by three houses built specifically as Ranger Stations in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. One of these 1937 stations remains today—Ranger Station 2.

In the first two decades of the Ranger program, the primary responsibilities involved law enforcement and monitoring. A general, primary goal of the rangers' was to ensure that civilians stayed off the reservation to avoid being injured by military training. Rangers policed the training lands for illegal activity, including poaching and liquor distilling. The rangers also monitored the land for wildfires, a major threat to a large forested area with few firebreaks. There is anecdotal evidence that rangers served a benevolent role, such as the care provided for John Nichols (former slave). Life at the stations was family oriented as revealed by Myra Mott Hanni's recollections of her childhood at the old Blue farmhouse and Dennis Wilson's remembrance of his time at Ranger Station 1 in the late 1930s.

By the 1950s the ranger program had evolved to include four major components. All of the interviewees from the 1950s and 1960s emphasized ranger responsibilities as relating to law enforcement, hunting, farming, and trapping. This was a time in the ranger program's history when it was the most diverse. Rangers were busy year-round with not only law enforcement duties but extra responsibilities during hunting season, as well as trapping in the early spring and farming wildlife food fields in the spring and summer. Ranger Stations became landmarks in the otherwise vacant training lands. In the 1950s as well as earlier, the Ranger Stations constituted unique rural households on the installation where active duty personnel were relatively isolated from the daily operations of Fort Bragg. The individual families would be variably networked with one another socially and would participate in nearby, local civilian communities instead of Fort Bragg's cantonment.

Change has characterized the program and the most profound change occurred in 1982. The beginning of this change was evident by the late 1960s when Ranger responsibilities for farming were transferred to the post engineers. By 1982 the ranger program would become a civilian operation. No longer would rangers live in the training areas and no longer would rangers be active duty military personnel. After 1982 the focus of Game Wardens would be primarily law enforcement. Training and selection processes for law enforcement officers would become more formal and rigorous. Two of the three ranger stations built in 1937 would be demolished. Wildlife habitat management, hunting and other recreational activities would become the responsibility of a civilian staff within the same division as the rangers.

The individuals interviewed for this history generally offered positive reflections on their experiences as rangers, rangers' spouses or dependents. Dennis Wilson referred to his six-month ranger duty as "a good assignment". Mary Winchester recalls having doubts about moving from a housing area in the city of Fayetteville to Ranger Station 3 on Manchester Road due to the remoteness of the station some 13 miles from the Main Post of Fort Bragg and approximately 9 miles to the next ranger station. However, soon after moving into the ranger station her doubts faded and she remembered life there as "a very wonderful experience". Mrs. Rowland referred to her children thoroughly enjoying the wooded landscape that provided a natural playground. None of the interviewees offered negative comments about the ranger assignment or life at the station. The degree to which this perspective may result from selective memory or the questions asked is unknown. The ranger program may have held secrets and its share of problems, however they are generally not represented in the interviews. As for the interviewees reflecting on their past, Bill Paulus noted in discussing farming activities, "I remember the good things but can't remember the bad things, like when I used to grumble when the day was over".

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NOTES

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. Longleaf Historic Resources, *Historic Architectural Resources Eligibility Report, Fort Bragg Military Reservation Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Moore, Richmond and Scotland Counties, North Carolina*. Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, May 2001, 14.

EARLY RANGERS AND RANGER STATIONS, 1922-1940

1. War Department, Office of the Quartermaster General, to Constructing Quartermaster, "Record of Communication Received, Camp Bragg Survey of Farm Buildings", 7 August 1922. Copy located in archives at Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

2. Dennis Wilson and Dorothy Wilson, interviewed by Jeffrey Irwin and Heather McDonald, digital recording, 07 November 2005, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

3. Quartermaster Records from 1938 recorded nineteenth century structures being used by the Army for Non-commissioned officers (NCO) quarters and as ranger stations. Building number F.H. 6 was a one-story wood building used as NCO Quarters for one family and building number R.S. 1 was a two-story farmhouse utilized as a ranger station. *Quartermaster Records*, Building No. F.S. 6, NCO Quarters, 1938, Record Group 77 Office of the Chief of Engineers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; *Quartermaster Records*, Building No. RS-1, Ranger Station, 1938, Record Group 77 Office of the Chief of Engineers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; A 1922 memo categorized farm buildings at Camp Bragg into three classes: 1) buildings to be sold and removed from the reservation, 2) buildings to be used for military living quarters and 3) buildings to be leased to civilians as living quarters. The first class of buildings contained 17 buildings, 10 of which the Army had already received bids at the time of the memo. The second class of buildings contained 13 buildings which were determined to be suitable for quarters for range riders, non-commissioned officers, and hunting lodges. The third class contained no buildings as the survey determined that there was no land or buildings suitable for leasing and if so the land was needed for military purposes. War Department, Office of the Quartermaster General, to Constructing Quartermaster, "Record of Communication Received, Camp Bragg Survey of Farm Buildings", 7 August 1922, Copy located in archives at Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. On file at the Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program Archives in the Irwin Collection is a ca. 1918 photo of a building being burned. On the back of the photo the following labeled is handwritten, "Clearing a farm house on Camp Bragg, N.C. Military Reservation. Earl O Llaves burned the house".

4. Census Report, Hoke County, Fort Bragg Military Reservation, 1930, Cumberland County Public Library, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

5. Ibid.

6. A 1937 *Fayetteville Observer* article mentions that Sergeant John Sidney Mott and his family lived at the old Sam J. Cameron place; however, research has shown that the Mott Family lived at Ranger Station 2. "Bragg Ranger Shot to Death," *Fayetteville Observer*, 16 October 1937:1.

7. Census Report, 1930. ; Myra Mott Hanni, interviewed by Heather McDonald, telephone, 24 October 2005, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

8. Ibid.

9. Kate Broadfoot, "History of Longstreet Church Delivered at Marker Unveiling", *Fayetteville Observer*, 27 June 1936: 2. Kate Broadfoot in her history of Long Street Church mentions "hard by the church is the Ranger's House Station number one, the boyhood home of Captain Neill W. Ray...this house has been more recently occupied by the MacFadyens." This ranger station might be the farmhouse of A.B. McFayden. His property was located near Long Street Church and the house appears on the War Department, Office of the Quartermaster General, to Constructing Quartermaster, "Record of Communication Received, Camp Bragg Survey of Farm Buildings", 7 August 1922. In the survey, the house is included in the list for houses to be sold but no bids have been received. It is possi-

ble the Army never received any bids for the house, but decided to utilize the building as a ranger station rather than demolish it.

10. *Census Report, 1930.*

11. Captain Gilbert Woods, "Initial assessment and appraisal," 1918, Record Group 93, Boxes 262-264, Quartermaster General's Office and Real Estate Section, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

12. Wilson interview.

13. The original drawings of the 1937 ranger stations could not be found, but the drawing numbers are as follows: Ranger Station 3 PE 1289.2 and Ranger Station 1 and 2 PE1289.1. The PE in front of the numbers stands for Post Engineer. The drawing numbers are found on the real property cards for the buildings, but the real property card for Ranger Station 1 could not be found. However, Ranger Station 1 and 2 have identical floor plans; therefore, the drawing plan for Ranger Station 1 probably was the same plan as Ranger Station 2. Real Property Records, Real Property and Planning Branch, Directorate of Public Works, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

14. *Master Plan Fort Bragg N.C. Analysis of Existing Facilities*, Fort Bragg Planning Board, 1948. Copy located in the archives at Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program.

15. John A Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942 A New Deal Case Study*, (Duke University Press: Durham, NC, 1967), 4.

16. North Carolina Emergency Relief Commission, *Emergency Relief in North Carolina. A Record of the Development and the Activities of The North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration 1932-1935*, ed. J.S Kirk, Walter A. Cutter and Thomas W. Morse (1936), 359.

17. Since the station at Raeford Vass and Manchester Roads was called Ranger Station 3 in 1937 on the Quartermaster Records, it can be assumed that the Ranger Station 3 from the 1920s was demolished or abandoned as use as a ranger station prior to 1937.

18. Quartermaster Records, Building No. T-RS-5, NCO Quarters Tem. (Ranger Station), 1938, Record Group 77 Office of the Chief of Engineers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Quartermaster Records, Building No. T-RS-3, NCO Quarters Tem. (Ranger Station), 1938, Record Group 77 Office of the Chief of Engineers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Quartermaster Records, Building No. T-RS-6, NCO Quarters Tem. (Ranger Station), 1938, Record Group 77 Office of the Chief of Engineers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

19. Wilson interview.

20. Wilson interview.; Major Harwood C. Bowman, "General Orders No. 1" Headquarters Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1 January 1938. Former ranger Sergeant John Sidney Mott, ranger from 1923 to 1937, was with the 17th Field Artillery and Dennis Wilson, private ranger for six months served with the 83rd Field Artillery.

21. Hanni interview.

22. Wilson interview.

23. Ibid.

24. John A. Oates, *The Story of Fayetteville and The Upper Cape Fear*, (Charlotte, NC: The Dowd Press, Inc, 1950), 768-769.

25. Land Management Branch, Directorate of Facilities, *Conservation and Beautification*, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1968, 30.

26. Hanni interview.

27. Major Harwood C. Bowman, "General Orders No. 9" Headquarters Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 21 October 1938.

28. "Bragg Ranger Shot to Death," *Fayetteville Observer*, 16 October 1937: 1; "Sgt. John S. Mott Killed by Hunter Last Saturday." 1937 Newspaper article. Copy on file at Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

29. Ibid.

30. Herbert G. Stiles, "Who was the murderer of ranger J.E. [S] Mott," *Fayetteville Observer*, 4 March 1989, 2E. Copy on file at Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program.

31. Major Harwood C. Bowman, "General Orders No. 1" Headquarters Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1 January 1938.

32. Ibid.

33. "Need County Aid to Prevent Fires," *Hoke County Journal*, 24 September 1925: 4.

34. "Fire Rages Ft. Bragg," *Fayetteville Observer*, March 16, 1925, 1.

35. By the late 1960s, three towers were in use. Land Management Branch, Directorate of Facilities, *Conservation and Beautification*, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1968, 9.

36. Myra Mott Hanni remembered a fire tower located near Ranger Station 4 that Sergeant McMinn was in charge of, but the location of Ranger Station 4 is unknown expect that it was in Quewhiffle Township in the south-western portion of Fort Bragg.

37. Wilson interview.

38. Ibid; Hanni interview.

39. Wilson interview.

MILITARY POLICE RANGERS, 1941-1982

1. Kathy Roe Coker, *The Military Police Corps at Fort Gordon, 1948-1975, a commemorative history*. Office of Command Historian. US Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, 1991.

2. Garland Evans and Billie Evans, interviewed by Jeffrey Irwin and Heather McDonald, digital recording, 11 October 2005, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.; Roger Fish and Inez Fish, interviewed by Jeffrey Irwin and Heather McDonald, digital recording, 02 September 2005, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment 503d Military Police Battalion, "Lineage and Honors, Military Police."

3. Estelle Rowland, interviewed by Jeffrey Irwin and Heather McDonald, digital recording, 27 January 2006, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Evelyn Ellington, interviewed by Jeffrey Irwin and Heather McDonald, digital recording, 7 February 2006, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

4. Bill Paulus, Orene Paulus and Mary Winchester, interviewed by Jeffrey Irwin and Heather McDonald, digital recording, 18 October 2005, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

5. Ibid.

6. Northeastern Training Area of Fort Bragg was acquired in the 1940s. The area near Spring Lake was acquired in 1942 and the Simmons Army Airfield area in 1949. Glen Prillaman, Interviewed by Heather McDonald, Email, 28 February 2006, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

7. Longleaf Historic Resources, *Historic Architectural Resources Eligibility Report, Fort Bragg Military Reservation Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Moore, Richmond and Scotland Counties, North Carolina*. Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, May 2001, 106.; Fish interview.

8. *Master Plan Fort Bragg North Carolina Analysis of Existing Facilities*, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, March 1976, 3.

9. The current building was constructed in 1960. Real Property Records, Real Property and Planning Branch, Directorate of Public Works, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Garland Evans in his interview notes that the club existed before the first McKellar's Lodge. Land Management Branch, Directorate of Facilities, *Conservation and Beautification*, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1968, 29.

10. Paulus and Winchester interview.

11. On that site today is the main office for the Wildlife Branch as well the Hunting and Fishing Center. That building was constructed in 1960 with a 1990s two-story addition.

12. "Hunting Season Opens at Bragg," *Fayetteville Observer*, 17 October 1957: 3C. It is unknown when civilians were first allowed to hunt on Fort Bragg, however Evelyn Ellington remembers that in the late 1960s, civilians could get a special permit to hunt and there were only so many slots reserved for civilians on the sign out sheets and once those slots were filled no more civilians could hunt that day. Evelyn Ellington, interviewed by Jeffrey Irwin and Heather McDonald, digital recording, 7 February 2006, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

13. "Hunting Season Opens at Bragg," *Fayetteville Observer*, 17 October 1957: 3C.

14. Evelyn Ellington, interviewed by Jeffrey Irwin and Heather McDonald, digital recording, 7 February 2006, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

15. Paulus and Winchester interview.

16. Land Management Branch, Directorate of Facilities, *Conservation and Beautification*, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1968, 21.

17. Paulus and Winchester interview.

18. "Military Police Rangers Enforce Rules, Help Balance Bragg's Bountiful Game," *The Fort Bragg Paraglide*, 25 November 1971: 1, Copy on file at Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program.; Ellington interview; Fish interview; Evans interview; Paulus and Winchester interview; Rowland interview.

19. *Paraglide*, 1971.

20. Fish interview; *Paraglide*, 1971.

21. By 1968 some 800 fields were active. Land Management Branch, Directorate of Facilities, *Conservation and Beautification*, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1968.

22. Land Management Branch, Directorate of Facilities, *Conservation and Beautification*, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1968, 5.

23. *Ibid*, 21.

24. Evans interview.
25. *Paraglide* 1971.
26. Land Management Branch, Directorate of Facilities, *Conservation and Beautification*, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1968, 21.
27. The major roads or sections of the roads were paved in the 1960s or 1970s. Rowland interview.
28. *Paraglide* 1971.
29. Ibid
30. According to the 1966 Master Plan, all of the World War II temporary buildings in the Yadkin Area were demolished by the early 1960s. *Analytical Report An Analysis of the Plans for Future Development*, Master Plan Fort Bragg North Carolina, Office of Post Engineer, February 1966, 9.
31. D. Alan Schultz, Interviewed by Heather McDonald, Email, 25 January 2006, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program. Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
32. Ibid.

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APPENDIX A - PROFILES OF INTERVIEWEES

Formal Interviews:

Evelyn Ellington. Evelyn Ellington is the widow of Ben Ellington. Ben was a military police ranger/game warden at Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 1965 to 1973. During those years, Evelyn and her husband along with their seven children lived at Ranger Station 1 at the corner of Raeford Vass Road and Plank Road. Evelyn now resides in Raeford, North Carolina.

Garland and Billie Evans. Garland Evans was a military police ranger/game warden at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in the late 1950s. Garland and his family lived at Ranger Station 4 located in the Yadkin Housing Area off of Reilly Road in the main cantonment area. Garland retired from the military in 1978 and now resides in Fayetteville, North Carolina with his wife, Billie.

Roger and Inez Fish. Roger Fish was a military police ranger/game warden at Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 1965 to 1967 and then again in 1969 to 1972. During those years, Roger and his family lived at Ranger Station 5 at Camp Mackall. Roger returned to work at Fort Bragg in 1982 as a civilian game warden and later became a federal wildlife officer. Roger and his wife, Inez, lived at Ranger Station 2 on the corner of King and Manchester Roads for a year and then moved off post. He retired in 1998 and now lives with his wife, Inez, in Whispering Pines, North Carolina.

Bill and Orene Paulus. Bill Paulus was a military police ranger/game warden at Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 1963 to 1966. Bill and his family lived off post, but Bill was assigned to Ranger Station 3 on the corner of Raeford Vass and Manchester Roads with Robert Winchester. He retired from the military in 1968 and now lives with his wife, Orene, in Cameron, North Carolina.

Estelle Rowland. Estelle Rowland is the widow of Creston Rowland. Creston was a military police ranger/game warden at Fort Bragg, North Carolina from the early 1950s to 1965. During those years, Estelle and her husband along with their seven children lived at Ranger Station 5 at Camp Mackall in the early 1950s and at Ranger Station 1 at the corner of Raeford Vass Road and Plank Road in the late 1950s to 1965. Estelle now resides in Raeford, North Carolina.

Dennis and Dorothy Wilson. Dennis Wilson was a post ranger at Fort Bragg in the late 1930s. He was assigned to the 83rd Field Artillery and served a six-month detachment duty as a post ranger. For that duty, he was assigned to Ranger Station 1 on the corner of Raeford Vass Road and Plank Road under the supervision of Sergeant Joe Lovette. Dennis retired from the military in 1961 and now lives with his wife, Dorothy, in Garner, North Carolina.

Mary Winchester. Mary Winchester is the widow of Robert Winchester. Robert was a military police ranger/game warden at Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 1962 to 1970. While he was a ranger, the Winchesters lived at Ranger Station 3 on the corner of Raeford Vass Road and Manchester Road from 1962 to 1965 and then again from 1969 to 1970. In 1967 to 1968, they lived at Ranger Station 2 on the corner of King and Manchester Roads. Robert retired from the military in 1970. Mary resides in Vass, North Carolina.

Informal Interviews:

Betty Lovette Bombatete. Betty Lovette Bombatete is the daughter of Sergeant Joe and Alma Lovette. Sergeant Joe Lovette was a post ranger at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in the 1930s. Betty and her family lived at Ranger Station 1 on the corner of Raeford Vass Road and Plank Road. She now lives in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Ben Clifton. Ben Clifton was a game warden/federal wildlife officer at Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 1982 to 1994. He now resides in Spring Lake, North Carolina.

Myra Mott Hanni. Myra Mott Hanni is the daughter of Sergeant John Sidney and Mary Mott. Her father was a post ranger at Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 1923 to 1937. He was killed in the line of duty in 1937 by poachers. Myra and her family lived at the first Ranger Station 1, an old farmhouse located in the central portion of the reservation formerly owned by Neil Blue. After her father's death, her family moved off post and she now lives in Avon Park, Florida.

Sidney Lovette. Sidney Lovette is the son of Sergeant Joe and Alma Lovette. Sergeant Joe Lovette was a post ranger at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in the 1930s. Sidney and his family lived at Ranger Station 1 on the corner of Raeford Vass Road and Plank Road. He now lives in Raeford, North Carolina.

Elizabeth Parker McPherson. Elizabeth Parker McPherson is the cousin of Myra Mott Hanni, Betty Lovette Bombatite and Sidney Lovette. Elizabeth and her family visited the Mott family and the Lovette family at the Fort Bragg Ranger Stations in the 1930s. Elizabeth now resides in Blanch, North Carolina.

Duncan B. Parker. Duncan Parker is the brother of Elizabeth Parker McPherson and the cousin of Myra Mott Hanni, Betty Lovette Bombatite and Sidney Lovette. Duncan and his family visited the Mott and Lovette families at the Fort Bragg Ranger Stations in the 1930s. Duncan now lives in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Creston (Bud) Rowland Jr. Creston Rowland, Jr. is the son of Creston and Estelle Rowland. He lived at Ranger Station 5 at Camp Mackall and Ranger Station 1 on the corner of Raeford Vass Road and Plank Road during his childhood. Creston now lives in Raeford, North Carolina.